

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT District Attorney	(2) MEETING DATE 7/8/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Debra Vallely 781-4082	
(4) SUBJECT Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to receive \$193,424 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2014-2015. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to receive \$193,424 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2014-2015.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) California Office of Emergency Services	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$193,424.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$193,424.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { X } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { } Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances { X } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A Date: <u>7/23/2013</u> (Annual)_____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Gerald T. Shea, District Attorney

DATE: 7/8/2014

SUBJECT: Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's Filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to receive \$193,424 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2014-2015. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

Request to authorize the District Attorney to sign a renewal grant agreement (Clerk's filed), on the Board's behalf, with the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to receive \$193,424 for the continuing administration of a Victim/Witness Assistance Program for FY 2014-2015.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of Victim/Witness Assistance Programs is to reduce the trauma and insensitive treatment that victims and witnesses may experience following a crime by providing crisis and support services to all types of victims. Victim/Witness Assistance Program activities and services are mandated by and outlined in Penal Code Section §13835.5. Since 1984, our County Board of Supervisors has recognized the District Attorney's Office as the County agency designated to provide comprehensive crime victim and witness services to all types of victims through its Victim/Witness Assistance Division and has contracted with the State for this purpose through annual grants for Victim/Witness Assistance Programs.

This grant award for \$193,424 is an increase from last year's grant allocation of \$180,950. No County match is required as the match is met by State funds allocated for the purpose. The grant funds the salary and partial benefits of a Senior Victim/Witness Coordinator (Victim/Witness Assistant Director) and 2.0 FTE Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinator II position salaries.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has approved the agreement for form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Under the terms of this grant, \$193,424 is available for FY 2014-2015. The grant award for FY 2013-2014 was \$180,950. There is no County match required. The District Attorney's Office included the expenses and revenue for this Program in its budget request for FY 2014-2015.

RESULTS

This Cal OES grant will enable the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division to achieve its County department goals, including:

- 1) Reduce the effects of crime on victims, family members, and the community.

Personnel (Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinators) are funded to contact victims and assess their needs and offer services designed to help victims navigate the criminal justice system and help them recover from the effects of crime, to the extent that is possible. During FY 2013-2014, 3,518 new victims of crime were contacted and assisted with a wide range of services. This figure does not include victims served under the Cal OES Underserved Victim (UV) Program, which targets victims with disabilities, elder, and dependent adult and victims of crime. Also during FY 2013-2014, Victim/Witness staff contacted 86.5% of victims in crimes against persons cases charged by the District Attorney within an average of an 8 day target for outreach. During FY 2012-2013 the staff contacted 86% of victims within the 8 day target for outreach and in FY 2011-2012 contacted 85% of victims within the 8 day target for outreach. This reflects a steady improvement over the past several years in the timeliness of Victim/Witness staff contact with victims.

- 2) To increase the criminal justice efficiency response to crime victims and witnesses.

Personnel (Victim/Witness Assistance Coordinators) confirm the victims' and witnesses' receipt of mailed subpoenas, thereby helping to ensure their cooperation with the criminal justice system and reducing expenses by saving law enforcement the time and expense required to personally serve subpoenas. We estimate continued savings of over \$400,000 per year during FY 2014-2015 by confirming subpoenas that otherwise would require personal service by the Sheriff's Civil Division. For FY 2013-2014, 96% of civilian witnesses received mailed subpoenas were contacted by Victim/Witness staff and receipt of their subpoenas was confirmed. Due to the unavailability of correct addresses for all witnesses, 100% confirmation of mailed subpoenas is not achievable.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Grant Agreement Renewal (Clerk's Filed)